(54) Title: DATA RETRIEVAL SCHEME VIA PROXY SERVER
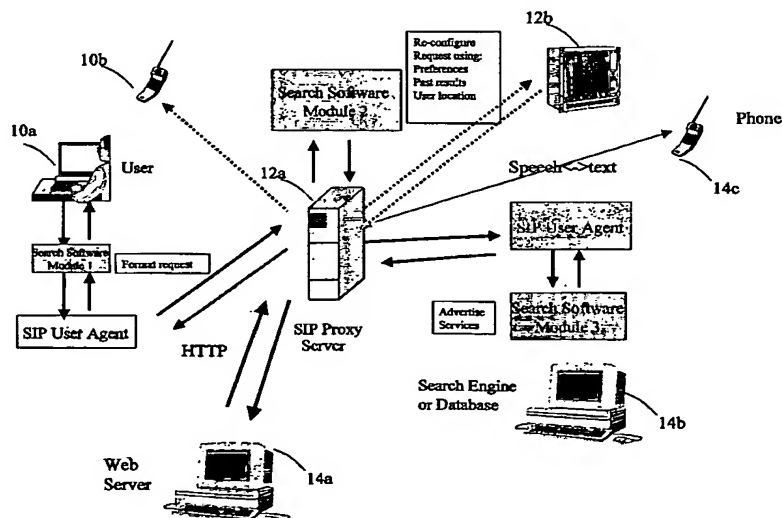
(57) Abstract: A method of purchasing an item, the method enabling a user to search for information on the cost of an item on a distributed computer system, the method comprising: generating a search request for the item at a user terminal; modifying the search request to indicate at least one user preference; forwarding the search request to a server adapted to retrieve data from the distributed computer system, the server adapted to provide a search result to a user terminal selected in accordance with a predetermined user preference dependent on the extent to which the search result conforms with the search request, whereby the user is able to purchase the item at the cost informed by the search result.

Published:
— *with international search report*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*